

IN RESPONSE, PLEASE
REFER TO: M120410

May 21, 2012

MEMORANDUM TO: R. W. Borchardt
Executive Director for Operations

FROM: Annette Vietti-Cook, Secretary */RA/*

SUBJECT: STAFF REQUIREMENTS – BRIEFING ON THE FINAL REPORT OF THE BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION ON AMERICA'S NUCLEAR FUTURE, 9:00 A.M., TUESDAY, APRIL 10, 2012, COMMISSIONERS' CONFERENCE ROOM, ONE WHITE FLINT NORTH, ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND (OPEN TO PUBLIC ATTENDANCE)

The Commission was briefed by representatives of the Blue Ribbon Commission (BRC) on America's Nuclear Future, on the BRC's recommendations on national policies for managing the back-end of the nuclear fuel cycle having potential implications for NRC regulatory programs. The BRC representatives were Brent Scowcroft, Lieutenant General, USAF (Ret.), and Co-Chair of the BRC; Dr. Tom Cotton, Vice President, Complex Systems Group and Senior Technical Advisor to the BRC; Tim Frazier, former Designated Federal Official; and Matt Milazzo, Deputy Staff Director.

The NRC staff also briefed the Commission on the implications of the BRC's recommendations on NRC programs for spent fuel storage, high-level waste disposal, fuel cycle, and spent fuel transportation regulation.

The Commission recognizes that generic regulations for geologic disposal will be necessary regardless of the fate of Yucca Mountain. Therefore, to ensure the agency is prepared to support any BRC recommendations after DOE and Congress take action on the BRC report, the staff should provide the Commission with a CA note on the resources necessary to support a rulemaking to revise the generic regulations for geologic disposal in 10 CFR 60 and its impact on other work in the event additional funding is not made available. No other action to support rulemaking should be taken without Commission approval.

cc: Chairman Jaczko
Commissioner Svinicki
Commissioner Apostolakis
Commissioner Magwood
Commissioner Ostendorff
OGC
CFO
OCA
OIG
OPA
Office Directors, Regions, ACRS, ASLBP (via E-Mail)
PDR